



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT**      Sound: Music Remixing (SCQF level 6)

**CODE**      F5E1 12

### SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to remixing music using audio software packages. Candidates will be given the opportunity to learn about the purpose of remixing music, the legal implications of remixing music, and the techniques that can be applied when remixing music. Candidates will have the opportunity to put theory into practice and develop technical skills in using audio software to remix music.

This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and the National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is suitable for candidates wishing to acquire a basic understanding of the theory and practice of music remixing.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe the remixing of music.
- 2 Remix music tracks in accordance with a given brief.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. However, candidates would benefit from previous knowledge or skills in audio software applications. It would also be beneficial if candidates had attained the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ Digital Media: Audio Editing (SCQF level 5)

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#### Administrative Information

**Superclass:**      XL

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CREDIT VALUE**

1 credit at Higher (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6\*).

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Problem Solving

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Sound: Music Remixing (SCQF level 6)**

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Describe the remixing of music.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a variety of music remixing styles and associated artists.
- (b) Compare contrasting commercial remixed music tracks.
- (c) Describe current copyright legislation that impacts upon remixing music.
- (d) Explain the process of obtaining copyright clearance.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Remix music tracks in accordance with a given brief.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Import audio from external sources.
- (b) Edit imported audio.
- (c) Apply dynamic and time-based effects processing.
- (d) Mix down to an appropriate format.
- (e) Manage files appropriately.
- (f) Compare mixed track with original.

### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

#### **Outcome 1**

Candidates are required to describe the remixing of music. The candidate is required to produce written and/or oral evidence. The assessment will be open-book and will require the candidate to:

- ◆ identify a minimum of two remixing styles and identify at least one key artist recognised for remixing music in each style
- ◆ select two contrasting remixed music tracks by different artists and compare them with reference to source material, style/genre, remixing techniques, and final product
- ◆ describe current UK copyright legislation and explain the impact of this on remixing music
- ◆ explain the process of obtaining copyright clearance with reference to the role and obligations of the key organisations involved and the remix artist (and/or their representatives)

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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This evidence will be gathered at appropriate points in the Unit.

#### Outcome 2

Candidates are required to remix music tracks according to a given brief. The brief will include a multi-track recording which candidates are required to remix.

Performance evidence, supported by an Assessor Observation Checklist, is required to demonstrate that the candidate can carry out the following tasks:

- ◆ import audio from an external source
- ◆ edit imported audio by:
  - producing a minimum of two glitch free looped one, two or four bar samples from longer pieces of audio
- ◆ edit the recorded track(s) to ensure they match the imported audio in terms of pitch and tempo
- ◆ ensure all tracks match in terms of pitch and tempo
- ◆ record a minimum of one new MIDI track
- ◆ apply one dynamic processing
- ◆ apply one time-based processing
- ◆ mix down the remix to an appropriate format
- ◆ back up and name all generated files appropriately

Candidates are required to produce product evidence in the form of an audio master and software files (including audio files). All the requirements detailed above should be carried out to produce a final remix which is technically competent, ie it should be coherent in terms of tempo and pitch.

Assessment should take place over a number of occasions throughout the delivery of the Unit, allowing candidates time to experiment creatively with the techniques being assessed.

Candidates are also required to produce written and/or oral evidence comparing their mixed track with the original version. This can be gathered under open-book conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

### **UNIT        Sound: Music Remixing (SCQF level 6)**

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and the National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is designed as an introduction to remixing music and the underlying technical processes. This Unit is designed to be a mainly practical Unit, and as such the focus is on the skills required to remix music. To reflect this, the majority of the Unit delivery time should be spent on the development of remixing skills.

For Outcome 1, candidates are required to describe the remixing of music. Candidates' knowledge and understanding would be enhanced by looking at the development of music remixing. They should be encouraged to listen to as wide a range of music remixing styles as possible and choose artists and/or styles of particular interest to them for comparison.

Candidates are also required to explain current copyright legislation in the UK and its importance specific to the remixing of music. Care should be taken that the most recent legislation is covered. Candidates will also explain the process of obtaining copyright clearance for using the music of others in the context of a remix, by describing the roles of the organisations identified.

For Outcome 2, candidates are required to remix music tracks according to a brief provided by the centre. In accordance with Outcome 1, it is important to stress that due consideration is made to copyright legislation when providing the candidates with source material for their remix.

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

In Outcome 1 it would be useful to spend some time listening to and analysing the work of successful music remix artists. Candidates should be encouraged to listen to as wide a range of music remixing styles as possible to understand the development of music remixing. It would be useful to allow students to listen to and discuss the tracks they will be comparing in groups to give them the opportunity to develop ideas and opinions before the assessment event.

Outcome 1 could be effectively contextualised by using examples of commercial remixes, and identifying the sources of sampled material. It would also benefit candidates to investigate historical high profile cases where the proper copyright clearance procedures were not followed so that candidates can gain an understanding of the potential consequences of not obtaining the appropriate licenses and clearances.

In Outcome 2 it will be important to allow candidates sufficient practice time using audio editing software before undertaking assessment. It may be beneficial to give candidates a number of specific short formative assignments covering the skills required to complete the assessment before allowing them additional time to experiment and be creative with the software.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral communication evidence as part of the assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Candidates will be using audio software packages, which offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information Technology*.

Candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* while undertaking the task of remixing music in Outcome 2.

### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

There is opportunity for integrated assessment of Outcome 1 PC (c) with the Unit *Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry* (SCQF level 6) Outcome 3 PC (b).

The following instruments of assessment are suggested:

- Outcome 1:      Report
- Outcome 2:      Practical assignment in which candidates are provided with source material to use as the basis for their remix.

For Outcome 2 it is recommended that candidates are given sufficient practice time throughout the delivery of the Unit to experiment and improve their skills with audio software before being assessed.

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

### CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs (www.sqa.org.uk)*.